

hf Happenings

No 498

March 2012

South African Radio League 1925 - 2011 Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1
Subscribe to HF Happenings via HF_Happenings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HF_Happenings/

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?

Your Licence Fee is Due Now

ICASA has started mailing license renewal notices. The license fee of R120.00 is due on 1 April 2012. You may also renew for five years at a reduced fee of R501.00. If you do not receive a renewal notice, the SARL recommends that you pay by using the license number on last year's invoice and your call sign. Also, mail the payment notification plus your address to KMashile@icasa.org.za. It is essential that in all payments to ICASA that you include your call sign as a payment reference. Also, remember to send any postal and e-mail address changes to admin@sarl.org.za

International Museums Day

Willie, ZS5WI says, "We have been approached by the local Museum personnel to run a station on Sunday 20 May (at the Museum) in recognition of International Museums Day which is on Friday 18 May. The personnel here in Eshowe believe that having the function on the Sunday instead of the previous Friday will bring in more visitors. They are probably correct. They have asked us to set up on the Sunday as I said.

We are quite keen to do so but I was wondering whether any other amateurs have been approached to run a station on the Friday or on the Sunday.

I wonder if anybody has been approached by their local Museum for this event, or are you involved with a Museum and need some help from the amateur community? What about you contacting your local Museum and offering them the amateur radio option to celebrate International Museums Day?

Here in Bloemfontein I can think of eight museums (and one is a rugby museum), there are probably a few more. What about in your village, town or city?

Drop an e-mail to Willie, ZS5WI, at zs5wi@telkomsa.net and Dennis, ZS4BS, at zs4bs@netactive.co.za with your plans for International Museums Day.

Have YOU done anything to promote Amateur Radio this month?





SARL 80 m QSO Party and RaDAR Contests

The first leg of the SARL 80 m QSO Party will be run on Thursday evening 5 April from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC. It is a phone only contest using the segments 3 603 to 3650 and 3700 to 3800 kHz. The exchange is your call sign, a RS report and your name.

The first leg of the Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio or RaDAR Contest will be run on Saturday 7 April starting at 12:00 UTC and ending at 18:00 UTC. Activity is on all HF Contest bands, VHF and UHF using CW, SSB, AM, FM or any digital mode. The exchange is your call sign, your name, a RS(T) report, QTH and grid locator.

Find all the information on page 39 and 41 of the 2012 SARL Contest Manual.

100th anniversary of the Titanic sinking in 1912

John Hudson, MOCMW, says, "The special call sign of GB100MGY has been obtained by and will be operated from Fort Perch Rock Marine Radio Museum, Newbrighton, Wirral, England (grid square SJ39). The call sign is for the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. We will be on the air all amateur bands from 6 April until 26 April using CW and SSB.

Special permission has been obtained to use this call sign on the 501 to 504 kHz band. We will be transmitting on 502 kHz with cross band for those without 500 kHz band transmitters on 3 566 or 7 066 depending on propagation conditions. This is only between 12 to 18 April on this band, mainly evenings and a special overnight is arranged for 14 and 15 April as the actual date the Titanic was lost and she used the 500 kHz band for her CQD and later SOS calls/messages.

Mind you, would certainly not expect any 502 kHz contact from UK to South Africa, Hi-Hi, but would expect some on the HF bands. A nice QSL card has been made for this event. All QSLs please to Bob, M0BZZ, either direct or via the bureau. No EQSL's please. Our website is www.fortperchrockmarineradiomuseum.co.uk. Also later this week, hopefully, as awaiting confirmation of domain name registration, www.gb100mgy-fortperchrock.co.uk

The venue for the event is from an old Napoleonic fort at the mouth of the River Mersey with Liverpool on one side and Birkenhead on the other side.

Please could you pass this news onto your friends/colleagues in South Africa?

March 2012

28 – SARL 80 metre Club Contest, SSB

30 – Inland schools close

31 Mar to 7 Apr – Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudtshoorn

April 2012

5 – SARL 80 m QSO Party

5 to 9 – Splashy Fen Music Festival, Underberg; Sedgefield Slow Festival

6 – Good Friday

6 to 9 – Western Cape AWA Expo, Stanford; Two Oceans Marathon, Cape Town

6 to 15 – The Rand Show, Johannesburg

7 – Autumn RaDAR Contest

9 – Family Day

10 – Schools open

14 – Autumn QRP Sprint

18 – World Amateur Radio Day

20 and 21 – Holyland Contest

20 to 22 – SARL National Convention, Pinetown

26 to 30 – Harley Davidson Africa Bike Week, Margate

27 – Freedom Day; closing date May RAE

27 and 28 – Graskop Blue Swallow festival, Graskop

27 to 29 – Dirtopia Mountain Bike Festival, Tarentaalkraal

27 to 30 – SA Cheese Festival, Stellenbosch

28 and 29 – John Dory's Orange River Canoe Marathon, Hopetown

29 – Summerveld Hike, Summerveld, KZN

30 – School holiday

Have YOU done anything to promote Amateur Radio this month?





Pirate

Maurice, F5NQL, reports that on 24 and 25 March 2012, a station appeared on the band signing TO4E, and sending as his QTH Europa Island, AF 009.

Would you note that since the genuine TO4E DXpedition to Europa in 2003, no but no activity has been authorised from this island, and of course, there is no activity in this moment.

The prefix block used in 2003 is no longer in use. For the past 4 years, the prefix block for Europa is FT5Exx and no licence has been issued to anyone. The access to Europa is forbidden except under special authorisation.

As a reminder, Europa and the other islands of the Iles éparées are now under the authority of the French Austral and Antarctic Territories authority, who are in charge of the following - Terre Adélie: FT5Y; Crozet: FT5W; Amsterdam: FT5Z; Kerguelen: F5TX; Glorieuses: FT5G; Tromelin: FT5T; Europa: FT5E; Juan de Nova: FT5J,

The FR5/G, /T, /E, /J prefix blocks no longer exist. Didier, F5OGL, QSL manager of the TO5E 2003 Europa DXpedition will not answer the cards for this activity in 2012. Thanks to Didier, F5OGL for the information.



LoTW and CQ Awards

CQ Magazine has announced a short delay in the launching of support for the CQ WPX award program through the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LOTW). Watch for additional updates on the status of this long-awaited expansion of LOTW with more support for CQ awards on the way.

Where do I point the beam?

A perennial (if not daily) question for the DXer - which direction - is often answered by an "azimuthal" map showing the great-circle path to anywhere from your QTH. You can buy one but the [AZ PROJ web site](#) can whip up a custom map for you in a few minutes. Start with the "Short Form" version to get a feel for the programme - enter your latitude and longitude, select "Whole World" and 2 500 km/cm for the whole map to fit on one sheet of letter-sized paper. Press "Generate Map" and voila! The "Long Form" process allows much more customization - warning - making custom maps is quite addictive!

The Father of Radio

IEEE Antennas and Propagation Magazine features a regular historical column and the Dec 2011 issue's was particularly good - "[The Father of Radio: A Brief Chronology of the Origin and development of Wireless Communications](#)". While most radio histories look back no farther than Maxwell, this paper takes the story all the way back to 1785 when Coulomb's experiments with static electricity. IEEE members may be able to access this paper directly and others can request it through their local library.

Around the World 28 MHz Balloon

A long duration balloon mission that is using six Party Balloons to carry a 50-gram amateur radio 28,222 MHz CW beacon is hoping to go around the world. The balloon was released at 23:30 UTC on 29 March from Annapolis in Maryland and started its journey heading SE at 6 knots. By 03:00 UTC 30 March, it had reached a speed of 96 km/h. It has no APRS, just the

Have **YOU** done anything to promote **Amateur Radio** this month?





28,222 MHz CW telemetry system and it is hoped to locate it by signal strength and beam headings only.

The mission is to give an insight into constant-pressure balloons and especially the use of common Mylar party balloons as a fixed volume envelope. Unfortunately, these balloons have a high mass, so the theoretical maximum altitude no matter how many balloons are used is only about 7 925 metres, and that is with no payload other than the fixed balloon mass.

The payload weighs about 50 grams. The team are targeting six party balloons 0,9144 m in diameter, which should give a float altitude around 4 876 metres. The Telemetry will be in CW on 28,222 MHz (USB DIAL) and will contain battery voltage, inside and outside temperatures, and surface luminosity of the ocean/clouds. It has no GPS. The team will rely entirely on DF bearings and signal reports.

E-mail DF reports to W3ADO@homeside.to. Be sure to include Your LAT/LONG, time of observation, quality of heading (subjective 1 to 10) and the CW string copied. If you have APRS, you can uplink your beam heading via APRS.

As the balloon is only flying at 4 876 metres or so, it will be vulnerable to weather. The battery is expected to have a lifetime of about 10 days. Further information including details of CW telemetry at <http://aprs.org/balloons.html>



Word to the Wise

Social climber - a helper that talks incessantly while on the tower

African DX

The log search for 3COE (Annobon) and 3C6A (Bioko Island) is now up and running at www.gdgdx.net/3c0e/index.php

South Sudan, STOR. The International DX Association is going to start offering various videos of DXpeditions that INDEXA helped support. The first video is the story of STOR, the 2011 DXpedition to the new DXCC entity of South Sudan - go to www.indexa.org and click on the DXpedition Video button on the left side of the page. The videos will change periodically.

Swaziland, 3DA. Filip, ON4AEO and several other operators from Belgium and South Africa will be active as 3DA0FC from Swaziland between 6 and 10 April. They plan to operate SSB, RTTY and PSK on 80 - 10 metres. QSL via ON4CJK, direct or bureau. Further information can be found at www.filipstattooshop.be/Swaziland2012/

Senegal, 6W. Tony, F8ATS is active as F8ATS/6W from Le-Calao, La Somone until 7 April. Activity is holiday style on all HF bands. QSL via bureau.

Morocco, CN. Look for Richard, F8FGU, to be active from High Atlas (Khenifra), Morocco (WW Loc IM72er), as CN2RN between 3 and 30 April 2012. Activity on the HF bands, CW and SSB. QSL via his home call, Bureau or direct.

Have **YOU** done anything to promote **Amateur Radio** this month?





Somalia, 6O. The Intrepid-DX Group is pleased to announce their next DXpedition, as 6O3A from Hargeisa, Somaliland (Somalia) to take place from 6 - 14 November 2012. Their primary objective is to activate Somaliland with a goal of providing as many DXers as possible a "new one" with this rare DXCC entity and, as a secondary objective, to give as many band-slots as possible. They will have five stations active at the same time in different bands and modes, 160 - 10 metres. Focus will be on North America, KH6, ZL/VK during those periods when propagation is possible to those areas. The team consists of Paul, N6PSE (Co-Leader), David, K3LP (Co-Leader), Dave, AH6HY, Jun, JH4RHF, Dmitri, RA9USU, Darko, E70A, Krassy, K1LZ, Hrane, YT1AD, Bill, N2WB, John, K6MM, Al, K3VN, and Bob, N6OX. Pilot stations will be Charles, AA6G (West Coast Pilot) and Col, MM0NDX (EU, AF, OC & SA). QSL Manager is Joe, W3HNK. They will have OQRS, and will accept direct and Bureau QSL cards. Logs will be uploaded to ClubLog on a daily basis. Further information and updates at www.intrepid-dx.com/6o3a/

African Islands

Mayotte, TO7. Hartwig, DL7BC, has been active from Mayotte (AF-027) since 21 March. He was originally active as FH/DL7BC, but as of 23 March he began using the call sign TO7BC (until 6 April). Activity will be from Bruno's, DH1BL/FH4VOS, QTH. Operations will be on 80 - 10 metres plus participation in CQ WW WPX SSB Contest. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau. For more details, visit his Web site at

http://www.qslnet.de/member/dl7bc/en_TO7BC.htm

Special Event Stations

United Arab Emirates, A6. Members of the Emirates Amateur Radio Society will be active as A60DWC from 31 March to 2 April during the thoroughbred horse race during the Dubai World Cup. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via NI5DX.

Belgium, ON. Commemorating the Titanic Centenary, the Vlaamse Radio Amateurs will operate three special stations - OO100MGY by ON3RAD section RACD in Deurne (Antwerp); OR100MGY by ON6KNH section KUST in Knokke-Heistand (QSL ON3AIM via Bureau); and OT100MGY by ON4PRA section PRAC in Londerzeel - between 1 and 30 April 2012.

During the weekend of Saturday 14 April and Sunday 15 April, all three stations will be active during a marathon transmission, from Saturday 14:00 local time until Sunday 18:00 local time (from 12:00 UTC Saturday until 16:00 UTC Sunday). Each of these stations has a special and unique QSL-card available. So, 3 (three) different QSL-cards can be acquired, one for each participating station. QSL direct (F.R.A., PO Box 1630, B-1000 Brussels 1, Belgium) or via Euro-Bureau QSL, the QSL-bureau of EURAO. Look at the website (EuroBureauQSL.org/) for the entry point of your country. Further information can be found at www.vra.be/VRAtitanic.html

England and Wales, 2O, Special Event 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. Look for the following special event call signs to be activated to celebrate the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games:

2O12L - Members of Cray Valley Radio Society (CVRS) will activate the London, England, station through the duration of the Games, and will be located at the historic Eltham Palace, southeast London. Activity will be on 160 - 2 metres using all modes. More information is available on the web at <http://www.2O12L.com>. QSL via G4WNF. Contact the Press Officer, John Warburton, G4IRN at press@2o12l.com

Have YOU done anything to promote Amateur Radio this month?





2012W - Members of Barry Amateur Radio Society (BARS) will activate the Welsh station from Whitmore Bay, Barry Island, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales, and will be active on all bands (160 m - 23 cm) and on all modes, including SSTV and satellite. More information is available on web at <http://www.2012W.com>. Contact station manager Glyn Jones, GWOANA, at glyndxis@talktalk.net

For updates, both operations will have Twitter and Facebook pages. See above web pages for information. A special QSL will be available. John, G4IRN, Publicity Officer for Project Echo, states [edited], "Amateur radio operators everywhere will be able to share in the Olympic experience by making contact with the stations and to exchange greetings messages with visitors and Games participants who visit the station - the team's aim is to make a contact with as many of the Games participating countries as possible..... The project aims to leave a lasting legacy by encouraging visitors to learn more about radio communications and the social, career and recreational benefits that it brings. Of course, visiting hams will be made very welcome at the stations."

Germany, DL1630. Look for the special event station DL1630Y to be active in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (24 and 25 March) and between 1 May and 31 July. During the WPX contest, operator Johannes, DK8JB, will be active as a Single-Op/Low-Power entry. QSL via the Bureau or eQSL. Activity is to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the DARC's OV Duisburg-Huckingen (DOK L16) radio club. For more details, see <http://www.darc.de/l16>

Gibraltar, ZQ3. Operators/brothers Mike, ZB3M, and Ed, ZB2ER, will activate the special call signs ZQ3M and ZQ2ER, respectively, from Gibraltar between 5 May and 10 June. Activity is to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. QSL via ZB3M direct only. No Bureau or No Electronic QSLs.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 26 March to 2 April 2012.

QRP Homebrewer Sprint

00:00 - 04:00 UTC 26 March

Mode: CW, PSK31

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and power out

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with commercial equipment; 3 points per QSO with homebrew xmtr OR rcvr; 4 points per QSO with homebrew xmtr AND rcvr

Multipliers: Power: >5 W: x 1, 1 - 5 W: x 7, 250 mW - 1 W: x 10, <250 mW: x 15

States, provinces, countries once per band per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x power mult * total SPC mults

Submit logs by: 24 April 2012

E-mail logs to: w2lj@verizon.net

Mail logs to: Larry Makoski, W2LJ, 327 Clinton Place, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.njgrp.org/data/qrphomebrewersprint.html>

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 28 March

Have YOU done anything to promote Amateur Radio this month?





Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 30 March 2012

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-submit.html>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 28 March and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 29 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 31 March 2012

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 30 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - Fox or Hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 31 March 2012

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint

Have **YOU** done anything to promote *Amateur Radio* this month?





01:30 - 02:00 UTC 30 March

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 April 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 30 March

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 April 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

Missouri QSO Party

18:00 UTC 31 March to 05:00 UTC 1 April and 18:00 - 23:59 UTC 1 April

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Missouri; Missouri Rover; Non-Missouri; DX

Exchange: MO: RS(T), serial no and county; non-MO W/VE: RS(T), serial no and state, province or territory; DX: RS(T), serial no and "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW QSO

Bonus: 100 points for at least one QSO with special event station

Multipliers: MO: Each MO county, state, province and territory once; MO: Maximum of one DXCC country once; Non-MO: Each MO county once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus

Submit logs by: 1 May 2012

E-mail logs to: moqsoparty@w0ma.org

Mail logs to: Boeing Employees' Amateur Radio Society, WOMA, 7488 Cornell Ave., University City, MO 63130, USA

Find rules at: http://www.w0ma.org/mo_qso_party.htm

UBA Spring SSB Contest

06:00 - 10:00 UTC 1 April

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single; SWL

Have **YOU** done anything to promote *Amateur Radio* this month?





Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: ON: RS, serial no and UBA Section; non-ON: RS and serial no
QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with Belgian station
Multipliers: Each UBA Section
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 15 April 2012
E-mail logs to: ubaspring@uba.be
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest>

RSGB RoPoCo SSB
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 2 April
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: RST and previous postcode received
QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with UK station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 17 April 2012
Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
Mail logs to: RSGB G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England
Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/rropoco.shtml>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 2 April
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 9 April 2012
Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/r80mcc.shtml>

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 3 April
SARL 80 m QSO Party, 17:00 - 20:00 UTC 5 April
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:30 - 02:00 UTC 6 April
LZ Open 40 m Sprint Contest, 04:00 - 08:00 UTC 7 April
PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavours Contest, 12:00 - 18:00 local 7 April
Rapid Deployable Amateur Radio (RaDAR) Contest, 12:00 - 18:00 UTC 7 April
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party, 12:00 UTC 7 April to 23:59 UTC 8 April
SP DX Contest, 15:00 UTC 7 April to 15:00 UTC 8 April

Have **YOU** done anything to promote *Amateur Radio* this month?





EA RTTY Contest, 16:00 UTC 7 April to 16:00 UTC 8 April

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 26 March 2012.

239 BC - the first recorded perihelion passage of Halley's Comet by Chinese astronomers in the Shih Chi and Wen Hsien Thung Khao chronicles (30 Mar)

1578 - Birth of William Harvey (1 Apr) - English physician who discovered the true nature of the circulation of the blood and of the function of the heart as a pump

1596 - Birth of René Descartes (31 March) - French philosopher and mathematician who is known as "the father of modern philosophy"

1791 - After a proposal by the Académie des sciences (Borda, Lagrange, Laplace, Monge and Condorcet), the French National Assembly finally chose that a metre would be a 1/10 000 000 of the distance between the North Pole and the equator (30 Mar)

1807 - Vesta 4, the only asteroid visible to the naked eye, thus the brightest on record, was first observed by the amateur astronomer Heinrich Wilhelm Olbers from Bremen (29 Mar)

1845 - A patent was awarded for an adhesive medicated plaster (No 3 965), predating the "Band-Aid." Drs Horace Harrell and William H. Shecut developed a process in which rubber is dissolved in a solvent then spread on fabric. They later sold the idea to Dr. Thomas Allcock who marketed it as Allcock's Porous Plaster (26 Mar)

1845 - Birth of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (27 Mar) German physicist who discovered the highly penetrating form of radiation that became known as X-rays on 8 November 1895

1853 - Birth of Vincent van Gogh (30 Mar) - post-Impressionist painter

1855 - Birth of Sir James Alfred Ewing (27 Mar) was a Scottish physicist who discovered and named hysteresis (1881), the resistance of magnetic materials to change in magnetic force

1875 - Sir Francis Galton published the first newspaper weather map - in *The Times*, London, England (1 Apr)

1879 - Birth of Bernhard Voldemar Schmidt (30 Mar) Astronomer and optical instrument maker who invented the telescope named for him.

1880 - Wabash, Ind. was the first town in which electric lighting completely replaced gas lamps (31 Mar)

1885 - 26 March 1885, commercial production began of George Eastman's flexible, paper-backed photographic film, the first continuous-strip negative able to be compactly spooled. The film consisted of a layer of paper and a coating of insoluble sensitized gelatine emulsion, separated by a layer of soluble gelatine to enable release of the film layer after developing. He incorporated the Eastman Dry-Plate and Film Co., Rochester, NY, on 1 Oct 1884, and was issued patent No 306 594 for this invention on 14 Oct 1884. He began promoting its convenience benefits to photographers over the bulkier, heavier and fragile glass plates then in use. Eastman designed the machinery for its manufacture, and a roll holder to use instead of glass plates.

1899 - On 27 March 1899, Guglielmo Marconi transmitted across the English Channel from Boulogne, France, to Dover, England. The test was requested by the French Government, which was considering purchasing rights to the invention in France. Representatives of the French Government observed operations at both stations. In the same fashion as previous trial transmissions at Marconi's Alum Bay and Poole stations, both transmitter and receiver used a well-insulated copper wire, hung from a 150-ft high mast. Messages were exchanged over the 32 miles, and trials continued for several days, at a speed of up to fifteen words a minute. The success of Marconi's experiments made possible communications without expensive undersea cables.

Have **YOU** done anything to promote *Amateur Radio* this month?





1903 - Death of Jean-Maurice-Émile Baudot (28 Mar) French engineer who, in 1874, received a patent on a telegraph code that by the mid-20th century had supplanted Morse Code as the most commonly used telegraphic alphabet

1903 - Regular news service began between New York and London on Marconi's wireless (29 Mar)

1905 - The radio fax was patented in the US by Cornelius Ehret of Rosemont, Pennsylvania. His device was called "a system for transmitting intelligence." However, faxing did not become a practical mode of communication until the 1920s, and high-speed faxes were not available until the 1940s. (28 Mar)

1908 - Birth of Abraham Maslow (1 Apr) - American psychologist who believed that man has a natural drive to healthiness, and developed this into his self-actualization theory of psychology (Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs)

1910 - Birth of John Robinson Pierce (27 Mar) American communications engineer who is regarded as the father of the communications satellite

1933 - Polyethylene was discovered by Reginald Gibson and Eric William Fawcett. It was one of the earliest plastics to come into common use. It was discovered by accident while reacting ethylene and benzaldehyde at high pressure. The demands of war and the need for a better insulator for cables stimulated the development of polyethylene and it played a key role in the development of radar (27 Mar)

1950 - The invention of the phototransistor was announced. This was a transistor operated by light rather than electric current, invented by Dr. John Northrup Shive of the Bell Telephone Laboratories at Murray Hill, New Jersey (30 Mar)

1953 - Dr. Jonas Salk announced a new vaccine to immunize people against polio (26 Mar)

1960 - The first weather observation satellite, Tiros I, was launched from Cape Kennedy and made the first television picture from space

1968 - Death of Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin (27 Mar) Soviet cosmonaut who on 12 April 1961 became the first man to travel into space when he was 27 years old

1973 - Birth of Lawrence Edward Page - co-founded of Google, Inc. with Sergey Brin

1974 - *Mariner 10* took the first close-up pictures of Mercury. It was launched on 3 November 1973 (29 Mar)

1994 - A picture was released showing the first moon discovered be in orbit around an asteroid. The potato-shaped asteroid Ida and its newly discovered moon, Dactyl was imaged by NASA's *Galileo* spacecraft, about 14 minutes before its closest approach to the asteroid on 28 August 1993. Ida appears to be about 36 miles long and 14 miles wide. It shows numerous craters, including many degraded craters, indicating Ida's surface is older than previously thought. The tiny moon is about 1,5 km across. The names are derived from the Dactyli, a group of mythological beings who lived on Mount Ida, where the infant Zeus was hidden (and raised, in some accounts) by the nymph Ida and protected by the Dactyli (26 Mar)

1998 - Death of Athelstan Frederick Spilhaus (29 Mar) South African/American geophysicist and inventor

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Have **YOU** done anything to promote **Amateur Radio** this month?

